



Indiana State Board of Education

Room 225 State House
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2798

MINUTES

INDIANA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

January 8, 2010
Department of Education
James Whitcomb Riley Conference Room
151 West Ohio Street
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

The meeting of the Indiana State Board of Education convened at 9:05 a.m. Board members Dr. Tony Bennett, Sarah O'Brien, Jo Blacketor, David Shane, Neil Pickett, and Daniel Elsener were present. Board members Mike Pettibone, Dr. Gwendolyn Griffith-Adell, Vicki Snyder, and James Edwards participated by teleconference. Board member Steve Gabet was not present.

I. **Call to Order**

Dr. Bennett led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. **Approval of the Minutes**

Mrs. Blacketor moved for approval of the minutes. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

III. **Statement of the Chair**

Dr. Bennett discussed the improvement in Indiana's 2008-2009 graduation rate of 81.5 percent, an increase of 3.7 percent over last year. The four-year graduation rates increased in all sub-categories. Approximately 68 percent of public high schools met or exceeded the state average, and 70 percent of public high schools graduated 80 percent or more of their senior class. Dr. Bennett said he commended Indiana schools for their commitment to see students through to their high school commencement. He recognized the 101 schools that achieved the 90 percent benchmark and those that have made measurable improvement in recent years.

The Board recessed at 9:15 a.m. for media interviews and reconvened at 9:30 a.m.

Dr. Bennett discussed the new rules for educator preparation and accountability (REPA) passed by the Professional Standards Advisory Board. The new licensing regulations will ensure all new teachers will be experts in the subjects they teach and allow adults from other careers to more easily enter the teaching profession. Dr. Bennett said the new rules require those who teach grades 5 – 12 to earn baccalaureate degrees in the subjects they teach in addition to passing exams that test their knowledge. The REPA regulations go into effect July 31, 2010. Students currently enrolled in teacher preparation programs will be transitioned into the new rules between now and August 31, 2013.

Dr. Bennett informed the Board that J. D. Miller passed away on December 26, 2009. Mr. Miller was a recent college graduate with a lifelong dream of being a teacher. He recently received his teacher's license and also spoke to the Department of Education staff at a town hall meeting on October 20 about his passion to teach and his life after being diagnosed with cancer.

IV. Spotlight on Learning

Jeffery P. Zaring, State Board of Education Administrator, said Crawford County Community School Corporation planned to make a presentation to the Board. Due to weather concerns, this presentation will be made at the February Board meeting.

V. Board Member Comments

VI. Adjudications and Hearings

VII. Public Comments

VIII. Discussion

Dr. Bennett discussed the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and said meetings have been held throughout the state with school corporations, legislators, and others about Race To The Top (RtTT). The application must be received by the federal government no later than January 19. The department is working diligently with Indiana school corporations and charter schools to secure signed partnership

agreements. If Indiana is selected, the DOE can begin the process of putting together work plans and hopefully will receive significant money to drive education reform in our communities.

Dr. Bennett said Indiana's RtTT proposal is titled Fast Forward. Information from the federal government is that there will be no funding for "status quo," proposals. Indiana's proposal is very aggressive. If we are selected, it will drive education reform in this state. A statement will be sent today to all schools with a specific fax number and e-mail address to be used to send in their partnership agreements.

Lance Rhodes, Chief Financial Officer, discussed the Citizens' Checklist of Cost Savings Measures for School Corporations. Following the State Board of Education meeting on December 17, the Department submitted a letter to the Governor regarding ideas for K-12 budget reductions that could be absorbed without reducing the number of classroom teachers. On December 23, the Governor defined K-12 budget adjustments and outlined 10 broad reduction areas which schools should consider prior to any teacher reductions.

Mr. Rhodes discussed the Citizens' Checklist that is intended to be shared with school corporations, school boards, and community members. Board members suggested some changes.

Dr. Bennett emphasized that this document is to be used as a resource. It is not a mandate.

Mr. Zaring gave an update on legislation and said Board members were sent, by e-mail, a list of the bills filed to date. Mr. Zaring said the bill filing deadline will occur next week. The Department's legislative efforts will be focused on the Race to The Top application.

Mr. Zaring discussed strategic planning and said discussion items for the next few months are included in Board book materials. Suggestions for other topics are always welcome. The senior staff meeting scheduled for January 11 will address the Department's goals for 2010, and this information will be shared with Board members at the February meeting.

Mr. Zaring gave an update on accountability issues and said, now that graduation rates have been released, he will meet with Molly Chamberlain, Data Manager, and Wes Bruce, Chief Assessment Officer. They will decide what steps need to be taken next for the No Child Left Behind graduation rate peer review. Indiana's graduation

rate goal is 90 percent, and this goal, as well as annual targets, must be reflected in our No Child Left Behind accountability workbook.

Mr. Zaring discussed technical assistance and said the Department will review technical assistance school reports during the last two weeks in January. Beginning in February, the Department will schedule meetings with the corporations involved. Each corporation will receive copies of the technical assistance reports so they can look at the reports before the meetings. Other than school corporation personnel, the meetings will include DOE staff and the intent is to have State Board members participate as well. Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs) will be negotiated at that time. In March, the MOAs will be presented at public meetings in each school corporation. A letter with this information will be sent soon to school corporations.

Dr. Stacey Hughes, Assistant Superintendent of Student Learning, John Wolf, and Anna Shults, Literacy Specialists, discussed the Department's reading initiative.

Early in 2009 Dr. Bennett made a challenge that Indiana will be recognized as the best education system in the United States. The department's Literacy Division has taken this challenge to heart. Since 1992, Indiana's National Assessment of Education Progress (NAEP) scores show our fourth graders have stayed at the same level in reading. The NAEP report also indicates that 32 percent of all fourth graders perform below the basic level.

On October 1, 2009, the department hosted a Reading Summit that focused on closing gaps in reading achievement. National attention is focused on improving reading skills because relatively large numbers of students in this country are struggling to become proficient readers by fourth grade.

Plans for the 2010-2011 school year include:

- Ensuring consistent implementation of the Reading Framework.
- Training to foster fidelity of core reading instructional programs.
- Ongoing support to provide feedback as instructional concepts are put into practice.
- High quality professional development to deepen understanding of the reading process.
- Utilizing assessments to guide instruction in promoting high expectations within a school wide community.

Proposed ideas of how the State Board of Education could implement critical literacy initiatives were discussed.

Mr. Zaring gave an update on assessment. Further discussion of the growth model will occur at the February meeting.

IX. Consent Agenda Items

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for appointment of a hearing officer in the matter of certification of amended Governing Body Selection Plan for the Benton Community School Corporation. [Agenda item VI, A]
- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for adoption of final orders in administrative adjudications where no objections have been filed to the recommended order of the hearing officer. [Agenda item VI, B]
- C. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of allocations for adult education. [Agenda item X, B]

Mr. Pickett moved for approval of the consent agenda items. Mrs. Blacketor seconded the motion. (Mrs. O'Brien would have abstained as to Avon Community School Corporation, but voted so the Board would have a quorum.) The motion passed unanimously.

X. Action

- A. Mr. Zaring presented a request for endorsement of the Race To The Top application.
Mr. Shane moved for approval. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- B. Mr. Zaring presented a request for approval of the "Citizens Checklist of Cost Savings Measures for School Corporations, with the understanding that changes suggested by the Board today will be circulated in the final version.

Mr. Pickett moved for approval. Mr. Shane seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

- C. Dré Knox, Coordinator of Integrated Services, presented a request for approval of the 2009 summer school program.

Mr. Pickett moved for approval. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. Dr. Bennett stated for the record that when this item is approved, he wants to be sure this is in alignment with what the Citizens' Checklist of Cost Savings Measures talks about; specifically, does this give local school corporations what they need to do, what we asked them to do, with the Citizens' Checklist?

XI. Board Operations

Mr. Zaring said the Board meeting scheduled for February 3 needs to be rescheduled as Board members have been invited to attend the Science Summit scheduled for the same day. Board members will be notified as soon as possible with alternative dates.

Mr. Elsener moved for adjournment. Mrs. O'Brien seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously. The meeting adjourned at 12 p.m.